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BOROUGH OF SUDBURY



in the
Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health

including the report of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1959

MEMBERS OF THE DRAINAGE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alderman L.W. McQuhae

The Mayor: Councillor Col. G.L.J. Tuck, C.M.G., D.S.O., J.P.

Alderman C.E. Grimwood J.P.

Councillor A.E.W. Bird.

Councillor E.A. Essex.

Councillor A.E. Fayers.

Councillor Mrs. K.M. Hitchcock.

Councillor G.C. Kisby.

Councillor H. Talbot.

All members of the Drainage and Health Committee were nominated to stand on the House Inspections Sub-Committee.

STAFF

Dr. G.P. Barclay M.B., Ch.B., DP.H. Medical Officer of Health.

(This officer does not engage in private practice but holds in addition the following appointments - Medical Officer of Health Hadleigh U.D.C. Melford R.D.C. Cosford R.D.C. Thedwastre R.D.C. Assistant County Medical Officer, School Medical Officer)

Mr. C.H.M. Hazlewood M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector and Housing Maintenance Officer.

Miss A. Bryant - Clerical Assistant and shorthand typist.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sudbury:-

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report of the Public Health Services for the year 1959.

As will be seen elsewhere in this report the population of Sudbury according to the estimate of the Registrar General is now increasing although the Birth Rate is rather lower than that of West Suffolk and of England and Wales whilst the Death Rate is similar. One death was the result of Leukaemia and cancer of lung was responsible for three male deaths.

An epidemic of measles occurred during 1959 and rather spoiled what would otherwise have been a fairly clean bill of health.

I would like to express my appreciation of the interest taken and encouragement given by the Chairman Alderman L.W. McQuhae, and members of the Public Health Committee and to thank very sincerely the town clerk, Mr. R. Coates, the borough surveyor Mr. S.J. Blackwell and the public health inspector Mr. C.H.M. Hazlewood for willing assistance during the year 1959.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

G.P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the previous year.

Population, Registrar General's Estimate 6260 (6230) Area 1925 acres
Number of inhabited houses 2903 (2903) Rateable Value £88,487 (£84,368)
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/60 £348 (£332)

Extracts of Vital Statistics for the year

Live Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	83 (94)	40 (54)	43 (40)
Illegitimate	<u>3 (4)</u>	<u>- (3)</u>	<u>3 (1)</u>
Total	<u>86 (98)</u>	<u>40 (57)</u>	<u>46 (41)</u>

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 13.7 (15.7)

Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 15.1 (15.5)

England and Wales Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 16.5 (16.4)

Still Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Illegitimate	<u>0 (0)</u>	<u>0 (0)</u>	<u>0 (0)</u>
Total	<u>1 (1)</u>	<u>1 (1)</u>	<u>0 (0)</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births 11.5 (10.2)
 Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births England and Wales 20.7 (21.6)
 Illegitimate Birth Rate 3.4 per cent.

Deaths registered in 1959

Death Rate (crude)	20.8	(15.7)
Death Rate (adjusted).	..	..	..	..	10.4	(17.5)
Death Rate of England and Wales	..	..	..	..	11.6	(11.7)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
130 (111)	53 (49)	77 (62)

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth,
 pregnancy or abortion: 0 (1)

Infantile Mortality

Deaths of Infants under one year Legitimate	1	(0)
Illegitimate	0	(0)
Total	1	(0)

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	11.5
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales			22.0

Neo-Natal Mortality

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	1	(0)
Death Rate of infants under one year:-		
All infants per 1,000 Live Births	11.5	(0)
England and Wales per 1,000 live births	15.8	(22.5)

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	0	(0)
Deaths from Whooping Cough	..	..	0	(0)

Causes of Death

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all types)	6 (12)	6 (10)	12 (22)
Deaths from Leukaemia	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Deaths from Diabetis	1 (0)	1 (2)	2 (2)
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	7 (4)	22 (15)	29 (19)
Deaths from Coronary Disease	12	9	21
Other Heart diseases	15	16	31
Deaths from Influenza	6	6	12
Deaths from Bronchitis	1 (3)	0 (0)	1 (3)
Deaths from Pneumonia	3 (2)	7 (4)	10 (6)
Deaths from Gastritis and Enteritis	-	1	1
Deaths from Nephritis	- (1)	1 (0)	1 (1)
Deaths from other defined and ill-defined diseases	2 (5)	4 (8)	6 (13)
Deaths from motor vehicle accidents	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Deaths from all other accidents	0 (1)	3 (0)	3 (1)
Total all causes	53	77	130

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

Two ambulances are stationed in the town.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply two District Nurses.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The West Suffolk County Council provide one centre in the town.

A Clinic is held weekly at the Youth Club premises, Stour Street, on Thursdays at 2 p.m. Welfare Foods are also distributed from this centre.

HOSPITALS

St. Leonards	43 beds.
Walnuttree	170 beds.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich has given the Borough very generous service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection

It was necessary during 1959 to remove three persons to hospital.

Prevention of and Control over
Infectious Diseases

Notifications received

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases Notified</u>	
Measles	252	(2)
Whooping Cough	1	(11)
Scarlet Fever	7	(6)
Infective Hepatitis	2	(2)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	(1)
Encephalitis	1	(1)
Erysipelas	2	(2)
Pneumonia	3	(1)
Dysentery	-	(1)
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	(1)
Totals	269	(28)

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>Total</u> <u>all types</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Number of cases on register at beginning of year	10	19	29	1	4	5	34
Number of cases added during the year	3	1	4	0	0	0	4
Number of cases removed during the year	1	0	1	0	1	1	2
Number of cases remaining on register at end	12	20	32	1	3	4	36

No deaths were caused by any type of tuberculosis during 1959.

WATER SUPPLY - SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL - CLEANSING

Contributed by Mr. S.J. Blackwell

M.I.Mun.E., A.M.Inst. H.E.

Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer

WATER SUPPLY

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the district. Bacteriological analyses have been taken and in all cases the results have been excellent. The samples were taken after chlorination, which is carried out as a precautionary measure only.

No chemical analysis was taken during the year. Owing to the extreme hardness of the water there is no danger from dissolved lead.

Remarks made in previous years, still apply that the storage capacity of the high level tank is very poor in view of the number of properties it now serves and which are being continually added to its area. A new water tower or water boosting pump is required to replace it. During the year mains were relaid in Church Street.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The effluent from the sewage works has been maintained at a reasonably good purity. Emptying of tanks was again restricted by lack of empty sludge drying lagoons.

CLEANSING

This continued to function satisfactorily. A dry powder blower type disinfecter was purchased for use on the refuse tip resulting in the complete disappearance of flies.

Factories Act 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occup. Pres.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	75	21	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	-	-
Total	82	27	2	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-	-

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers</u>
Wearing apparel (making etc.)	6
Curtains and Furniture hangings	1

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

C.H.M. Hazlewood M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Sudbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The introduction to my contribution to the Annual Report is very brief. The reason for this is that work carried out during 1959 was basically very similar to that carried out in 1958. The pre-eminence given to housing works continued and other statutory duties received much less attention than was requisite.

Slum Clearance continues at a steady if not spectacular rate, but the improvement of other dwellings, obsolete principally because of lack of modern facilities, although more satisfactory than for previous years is still below the required level.

Further observations on these and other works are continued under their respective headings.

Until satisfactory staffing arrangements are made that allow for adequate field work to be carried out, it will not be possible for an Annual Report, reviewing with satisfaction the years work, to be produced. The Council are, however, at the present time engaged in reviewing staffing of the Public Health Department.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members for the interest they have shown in the work of the Public Health Department during the year, to note the good work carried out by Miss Bryant and to thank my colleagues on the staff for their continued co-operation.

C. Hazlewood

Public Health Inspector.

Slum Clearance

The position at the end of the year as regards clearance areas dealt with since the submission of the Councils proposals in August 1954 was as follows:-

- (1) Cross Street and Mill Lane Area (9 houses) - acquired by agreement and demolished.
- (2) Bulmer Road and Ballingdon Street Area (6 houses) - compulsory purchase order confirmed by Minister, 4 houses demolished.
- (3) Grimwoods Yard Area (7 houses) - demolished.
- (4) Church Street, Mill Lane and Plough Lane Area (16 houses) - clearance order confirmed by Minister, 15 of the properties vacated.
- (5) Burkitts Lane Area (4 houses) - demolished.
- (6) Garden Row Area (18 houses) - compulsory purchase order confirmed by Minister, 16 of the properties vacated.
- (7) Gregory Street Area (51 houses) - declared clearance area by Council.
- (8) East Street Area (9 houses) - declared clearance area by Council.

Ministry confirmation of the revised slum clearance return was received early in the year. This return envisaged the clearance of 245 unfit properties by August 1965, 156 of which were to be dealt with by the end of 1960.

Rehousing

Thirty two families, comprising ninety nine persons were rehoused by the Council from cleared or closed properties during the year.

Closing Orders

During the year Closing Orders were made under section 17 of the Housing Act 1957 on thirty one properties.

Purchase of Temporary Accommodation

The Council agreed to purchase three small cottage dwellings for temporary accommodation in accordance with section 17 of the Housing Act 1957.

Housing Repairs

Formal action under section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936 was necessary in one case to secure necessary repairs.

Seventeen properties were repaired following service of written informal notices.

Many other minor repairs were also attended to promptly after an informal call on the owner or a telephone call.

Certificates of Disrepair

During the year only two applications for certificates of disrepair were received and in both cases certificates were given.

Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants - Twenty two applications for grants were approved during the year. Twelve of these grants were in respect of owner occupied properties.

Standard Grants - Four applications for grant were approved during the year. Three were in respect of owner occupied properties.

Observations - The Slum Clearance programme was still running to schedule at the end of the year and could, therefore be described as reasonably satisfactory.

It would now seem that the next year or so will have seen the clearance of those properties the existence of which was a disgrace to modern society.

There remains, however, a considerable number of houses which are not fit by modern standards, even if they are seen as fit within the scope of existing law. These can be placed in two categories. Those that could be made fit by repair and improvement and those which because of their degree of unfitness

inadaptability to modernisation or congested and unsatisfactory location, are beyond the scope of improvement and must, therefore, be cleared in the not too distant future.

With regard to the first group. As it has not been possible to survey all properties in the town their exact number is not known. What is certain, however, is that despite the welcome increase in the number of improvement grants over the last year, the battle for the preservation of this type of property is still being lost and it will require owner occupiers and landlords alike to take up the offers of grants to improve their properties to a much greater degree if the tide is to be turned.

The second group of properties are also many in number and all that can be hoped for in their case is that they be kept in as reasonable repair as possible until it is their turn to fall under the hammer of the demolition contractor.

Doubtless the next decade will see the elimination of this type of property. As a young man perhaps I am too impatient to see their disappearance but my constant contact with families living in these outmoded conditions makes me feel this is a matter in which authorities generally cannot hurry too quickly. It is to my mind a tragedy that some young families eager to free themselves from these conditions will be unable to do so for several years yet. It is also regrettable to say the least that many older folk have become so used to damp, dismal and unattractive surroundings that they are now taken for granted as an accepted way of life.

Of course there is another side to the picture in that not all occupants of such dwellings are deserving of rehousing or make sufficient efforts themselves to improve their conditions. Nevertheless I believe such people to be a minority.

The continuation and indeed expansion of the clearance programme is necessary not only to secure that all inhabitants have adequate accommodation in which to lead their daily lives, but supplementary to this, to replace worn out accommodation of low rateable value with good class properties of higher rateable value and not least to make all streets of the town such that town dwellers and visitors alike can tread them and feel elevated : rather than depressed.

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTIONS

Slaughtering was carried out at the three licenced slaughterhouses in the Borough.

The number of licenced slaughtermen was eight.

Details of inspections and condemnation are as follows:- (figures for the previous year are in brackets)

	<u>Cattle excluding cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	138 (148)	2 (1)	7 (13)	212 (146)	720 (800)
Number Inspected	135 (146)	2 (1)	5 (13)	200 (140)	711 (796)

	<u>Cattle ex- cluding cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	2	35
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	7.4	-	-	1	4.9

	<u>Cattle ex- cluding cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	39
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.5	-	-	-	5.5

Cysticercus Bovis was discovered in two cases. The organs and carcasses concerned being placed in cold storage.

97.6% of all animals killed were inspected.

All diseased meat was coloured before being disposed of principally by burying at the Council's tip.

The total number of animals inspected was almost exactly the same as for the previous year.

Whilst the figures themselves are comparatively small, the fact that only a few animals are slaughtered at a time means that fairly frequent visits have to be made.

Little change took place in so far as the slaughtering premises were concerned which meant that slaughtering continued to be carried out in some cases in outmoded premises and under not very hygienic conditions.

The following additional foodstuffs were examined at wholesale and retail food shops and certificates given when they were voluntarily surrendered.

Canned Foods

Fruits ..	..	..	..	50 tins
Vegetables	..	..	..	356 tins
Soups ..	..	..	..	30 tins
Milk products	..	..	..	98 tins
Meat products	..	..	..	172 tins
Fish ..	..	..	..	7 tins

713 tins

In addition various meat products to a total weight of 21 lbs were condemned at grocers and butchers shops.

FOOD PREMISES

Milk and Dairies

Number of registered distributors	8
Designated licences in force	
Dealers Tuberculin Tested	4
Dealers Pasteurised	5
Dealers Sterilized	3
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	1
Supplementary Pasteurised and Sterilized	1

With one exception samples taken during the year passed the prescribed tests.

The Milk (Special Designation)(Specified Areas) Order 1958 has effect in this area prohibiting the retail sale of milk for human consumption which is not a special designated milk.

ICE CREAM

The few samples taken of nationally known ice cream products were all reported as Grade 1 or 2.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The total numbers of the various types of food premises in the Borough are as follows:--

Cafes and Restaurants	12
Bakers and confectioners	4
Confectioners	10
Greengrocers	6
Grocers and general stores	24
Butchers	9
Fishmongers	6
Public Houses	26
Hotels	3
Clubs, school and factory canteens	6
Frozen foods packing station	1
Premises manufacturing pork pies	1
	<hr/>
Total	108
	<hr/>

In addition to the above markets are held on the Market Hill. A fishmonger, grocer, greengrocers and confectioners attend regularly on Thursdays and greengrocers occasionally on Saturdays.

Premises registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream number 25.

Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of Sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale number 16.

As in previous years visits to food premises were few and far between. There is therefore, little that I can add to the observations made in my previous reports except to restate my view that present staff arrangements do not permit the Health Department to carry out their statutory duties under the Food and Drugs Act and Food Hygiene Regulations satisfactorily.

COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Housing Maintenance Officer.

At the end of 1959 the Council owned:-

	126 pre war council houses
	3 pre war council bungalows
	280 post war council houses.
	38 post war council bungalows
	10 prefabricated dwellings.
	42 other dwellings.
Total	<hr/> 499 <hr/>

The construction of a further 50 three bedroomed houses started during September 1959.

The Council now own 22 garages, all except one being sited on the two major post war estates.

49 new tenancies were granted during the year, seven of these being transfers. 32 of the new tenants came from slum clearance properties.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing lists remained at approximately 140.

Several written reports were made to the Housing Allocations Committee concerning the accommodation occupied by applicants and many verbal reports on such matters made to the Committee when new tenants were selected.

External re-painting, internal redecorations following vacations and all repair works, excluding those concerning gas and electrical appliances and fittings, continued to be carried out by the direct labour staff.

In all over 700 complaints were received and dealt with by the direct labour staff.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council discontinued the practice of employing a full time rodent operator as from the 1st April. The present operator was retained, but was employed for approximately 50% of his time on other duties. Actual treatment work was not substantially reduced but much less survey work was carried out. Insufficient time has elapsed for a proper assessment as to the efficiency of this arrangement to be made. Thirty one business premises were treated, under agreement when found to be infested. Treatment charges were continued at 6/- per hour.

Two sewer treatments were carried out employing an extended baiting system using acute poisons. Unlike previous years the treatments did not cover the whole of the sewered area, but only those areas which from past experience were known to be infested. Results of the treatment were satisfactory and showed that no increase in the rodent sewer population had taken place over the last year.

CESSPOOLS AND NIGHTSOIL

There were no further sewer connections during the year. 20 isolated properties with cesspool or septic tank drainage remain. Pail closets were emptied twice a week from eight properties only.

DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of 9 premises was found to be necessary during the year and spraying of the refuse tip was carried out as often as necessary.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There were no licences in being authorizing the erection and use of moveable dwellings during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT

The number of pet shops licenced during the year remained at three.

SHOP ACTS

As in the previous year very little work in this connection was carried out.

FACTORIES ACT

Details of inspections under the Factories Acts are recorded at pages 10, 11 and 12.

The number of inspections made was still too low to be considered satisfactory or to allow any accurate assessment of conditions in such premises to be made.

SWIMMING POOL

Because of the exceptional good weather the swimming pool was even more extensively used by those residing in or near the borough. Figures show a further substantial increase over previous years.

Reports on samples taken for bacteriological examination were in all cases satisfactory.

Admissions to Swimming Pool for 1958 and 1959

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Childrens Season Tickets	241	326
Adults Season Tickets	26	26
School bathers	4,736	5,762
Other bathers	17,485	29,128
Spectators	3,152	3,887

